The Ultimate JUSTICE LEAGUE® Epic Begins!

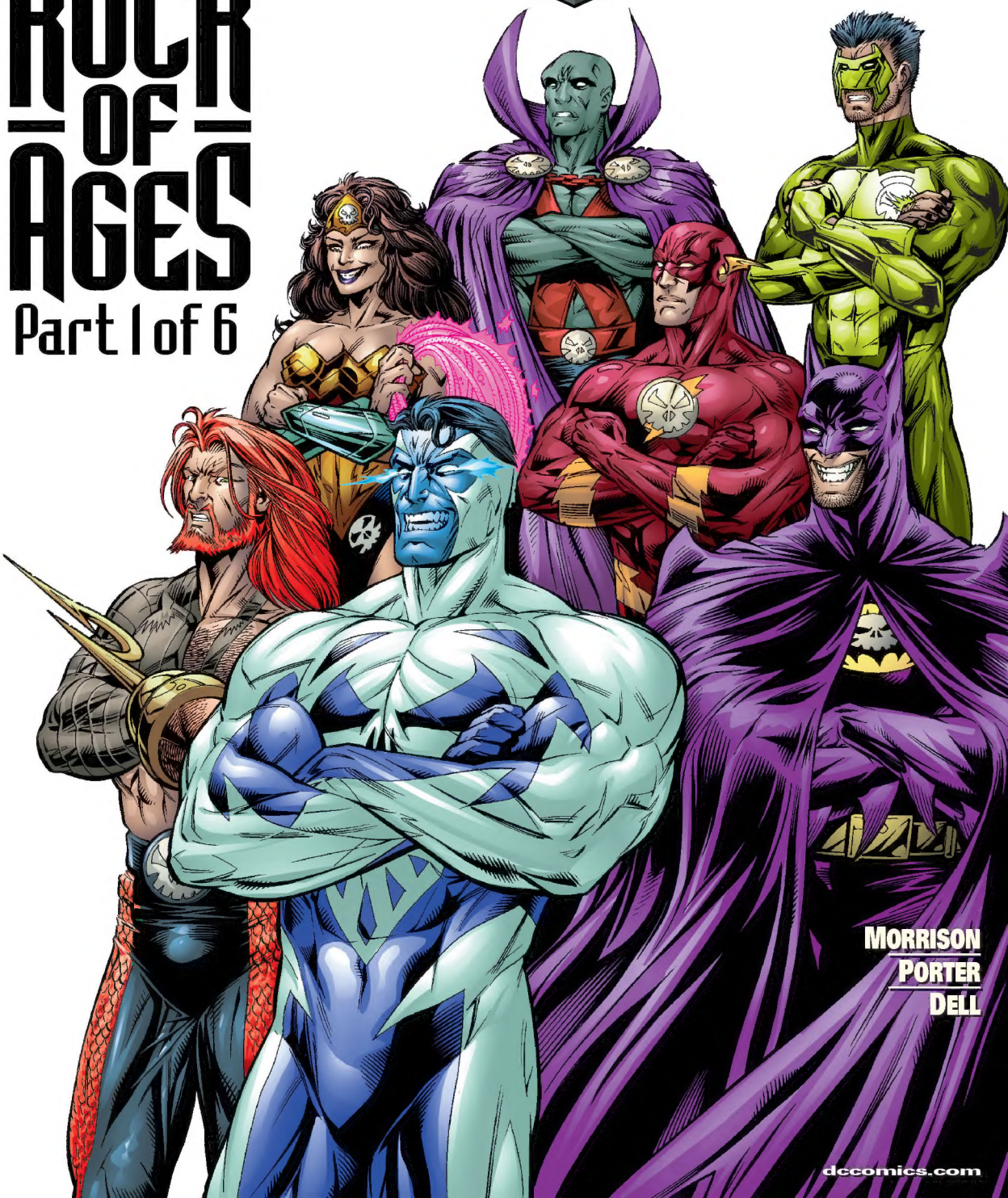
JLA™

10 | LATE SEP 97

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ROCK OF AGES

Part 1 of 6



MORRISON
PORTER
DELL

dccomics.com

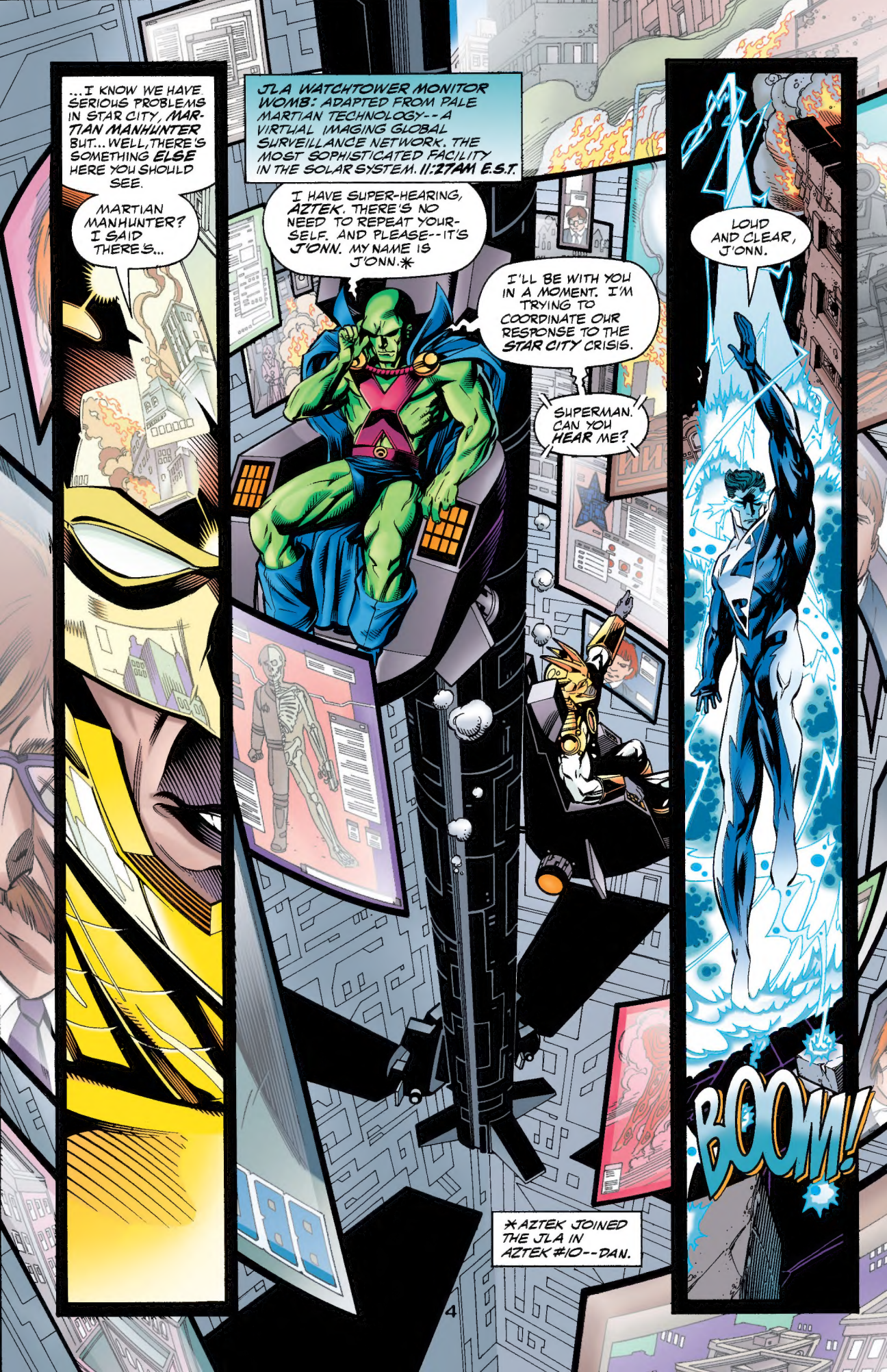
STAR CITY, 11:20 AM E.S.T.
SANDY'S EXOTIC CUTS
-SINCE- 1987
DELI-DIAZ
SORRY- WE ARE MOVING TO NEW LOCATION.
222
ALL THE GOOD YOU HAVE DONE, WE WILL UNDO.
ALL THE LIVES YOU HAVE SAVED, WE WILL DESTROY.
ALL THAT YOU STAND FOR, WE WILL MOCK AND TRAMPLE IN THE DIRT.

CONVERSION BY
WILDSTORM

THAT'S UNLESS YOU WANT TO TRY TO STOP US.

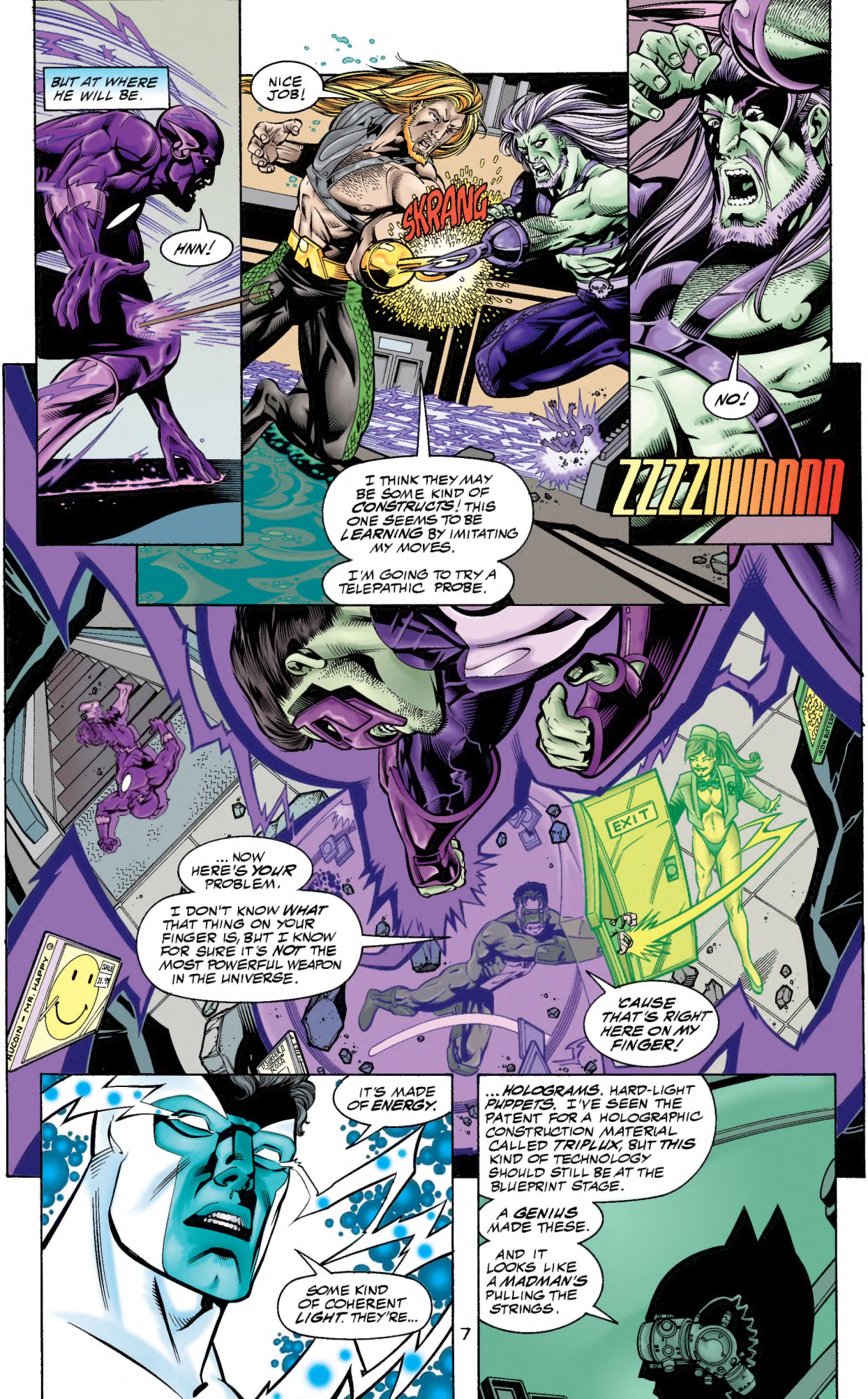
ROCK OF AGES
prologue: GENESIS and REVELATIONS

GRANT MORRISON	HOWARD PORTER	JOHN DELL	PAT GARRAHY	HEROIC AGE	KEN LOPEZ	PETER TOMASI	DAN RASPLER
story	penciller	inker	colorist	separations	letterer	associate editor	editor


...I KNOW WE HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN STAR CITY, MARTIAN MANHUNTER BUT... WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HERE YOU SHOULD SEE.
MARTIAN MANHUNTER? I SAID THERE'S...
JLA WATCHTOWER MONITOR WOMB: ADAPTED FROM PALE MARTIAN TECHNOLOGY--A VIRTUAL IMAGING GLOBAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK. THE MOST SOPHISTICATED FACILITY IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM. 11:27AM E.S.T.
I HAVE SUPER-HEARING, AZTEK. THERE'S NO NEED TO REPEAT YOURSELF. AND PLEASE--IT'S J'ONN. MY NAME IS J'ONN.*
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT. I'M TRYING TO COORDINATE OUR RESPONSE TO THE STAR CITY CRISIS.
SUPERMAN. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, J'ONN.
BOOM!
*AZTEK JOINED THE JLA IN AZTEK #10--DAN.
4

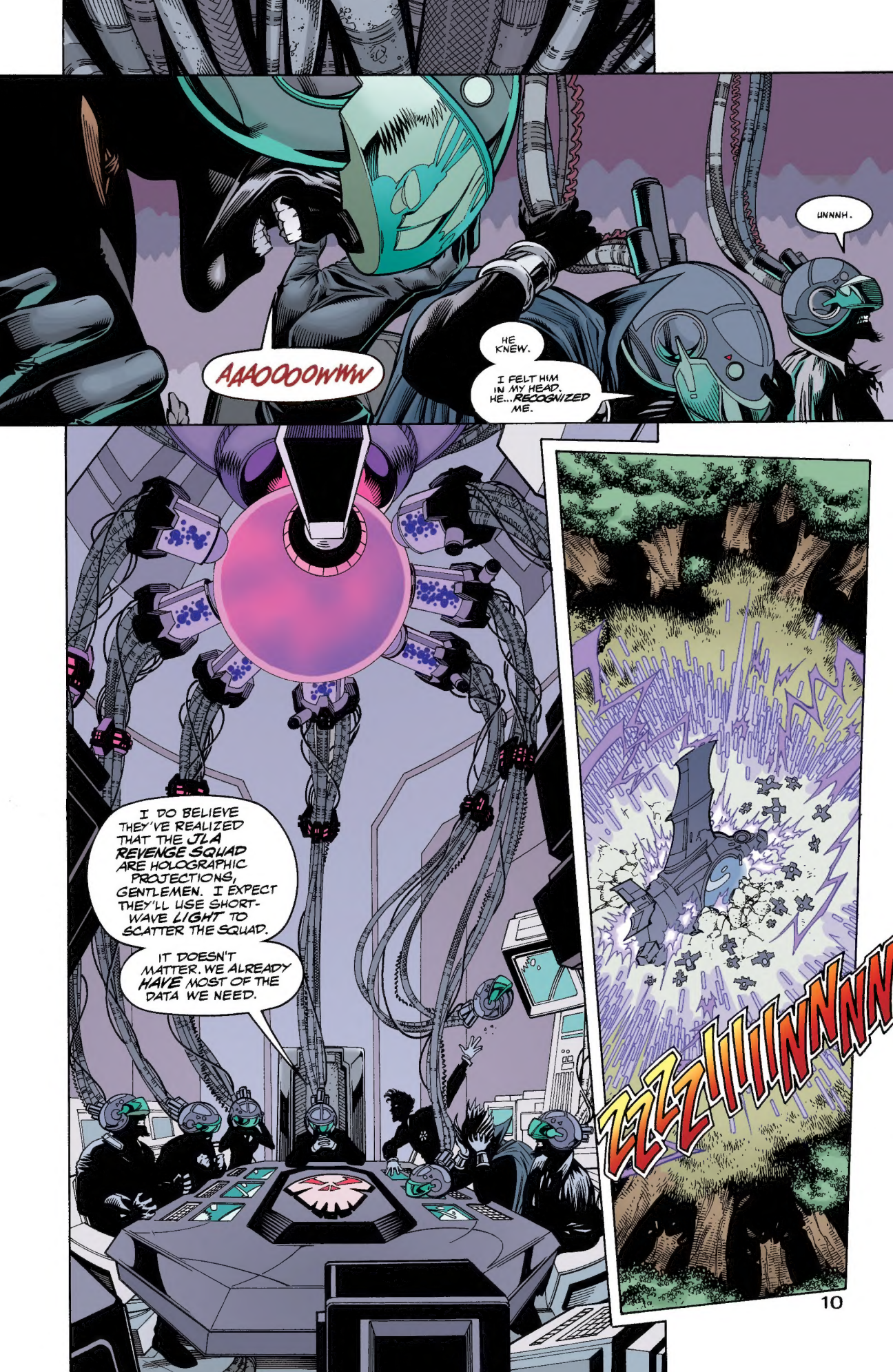
TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATIONS LINK-UP OPERATIONAL. SURFACE MIND TACTICAL CONTACT ONLY.
I'LL BE JOINING YOU ALL SHORTLY.
WELCOME TO MY HEAD, J'ONN, MAN. SO WE'RE ALL CONNECTED UP NOW AND IT'S COOL BUT...
I MEAN, WONDER WOMAN'S DEAD AND FLASH IS INJURED AND...THIS ISN'T THE JLA...
UNTIL THE LAST MAN FALLS THIS IS THE JLA. STAY WITHIN THE CURRENT MISSION PARAMETERS, GREEN LANTERN.
LET'S NIP THIS IN THE BUD.
LEAVE THE "BATPLANE" TO ME.
SO HOW COME HE DOESN'T HAVE TO...
UH-OH. THIS LOOKS MAJOR, J'ONN. YOU WANT JUST THREE OF US TO GO UP AGAINST THESE GUYS?
STOP THINKING AT ME AND GO TO WORK, GREEN LANTERN.
THERE ARE FIVE OF US ON SITE.

SATISFACTORY ODDS.
SKLASH!
I CAN'T DO IT, AQUAMAN!
YES YOU CAN!
FOCUS!
FOCUS!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HIT A TARGET MOVING AT SUPER-SPEED?
HE'S JUST ZAPPING IN AND OUT, PICKING THESE PEOPLE OFF ONE BY...
HE TOOK MY WIFE!
BUT HE'S NOT MOVING AT SUPER-SPEED. HE'S TAKING HIS TIME, SAVORING THE FEAR.
AND MOVING IN A REPEATING PATTERN.
DO SOMETHING, GREEN ARROW! DO SOMETHING!
IN AN INSTANT, GREEN ARROW STILLS HIS MIND. ALL MENTAL CHATTER CEASES.
IN AN INSTANT, THE BOWSTRING IS TAUT, THE SHAFT VIBRATES WITH TENSION.
IN AN INSTANT, HE CALCULATES WITHOUT THINKING.
AND TAKES AIM.
NOT AT WHERE THE ENEMY IS...


BUT AT WHERE HE WILL BE.
HNN!
NICE JOB!
SKRANG
NO!
ZZZZWWNNNN
I THINK THEY MAY BE SOME KIND OF CONSTRUCTS! THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE LEARNING BY IMITATING MY MOVES.
I'M GOING TO TRY A TELEPATHIC PROBE.
EXIT
... NOW HERE'S YOUR PROBLEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING ON YOUR FINGER IS, BUT I KNOW FOR SURE IT'S NOT THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE.
'CAUSE THAT'S RIGHT HERE ON MY FINGER!
AUCOIN - MR. HAPPY
IT'S MADE OF ENERGY.
SOME KIND OF COHERENT LIGHT. THEY'RE...
...HOLOGRAMS. HARD-LIGHT PUPPETS. I'VE SEEN THE PATENT FOR A HOLOGRAPHIC CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL CALLED TRIPLUX, BUT THIS KIND OF TECHNOLOGY SHOULD STILL BE AT THE BLUEPRINT STAGE.
A GENIUS MADE THESE.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE A MADMAN'S PULLING THE STRINGS.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
GEL-O
AH.
KZZAK!
LASERS DEPLOY.
SINGLE PULSE SEQUENCE.
FIRE.

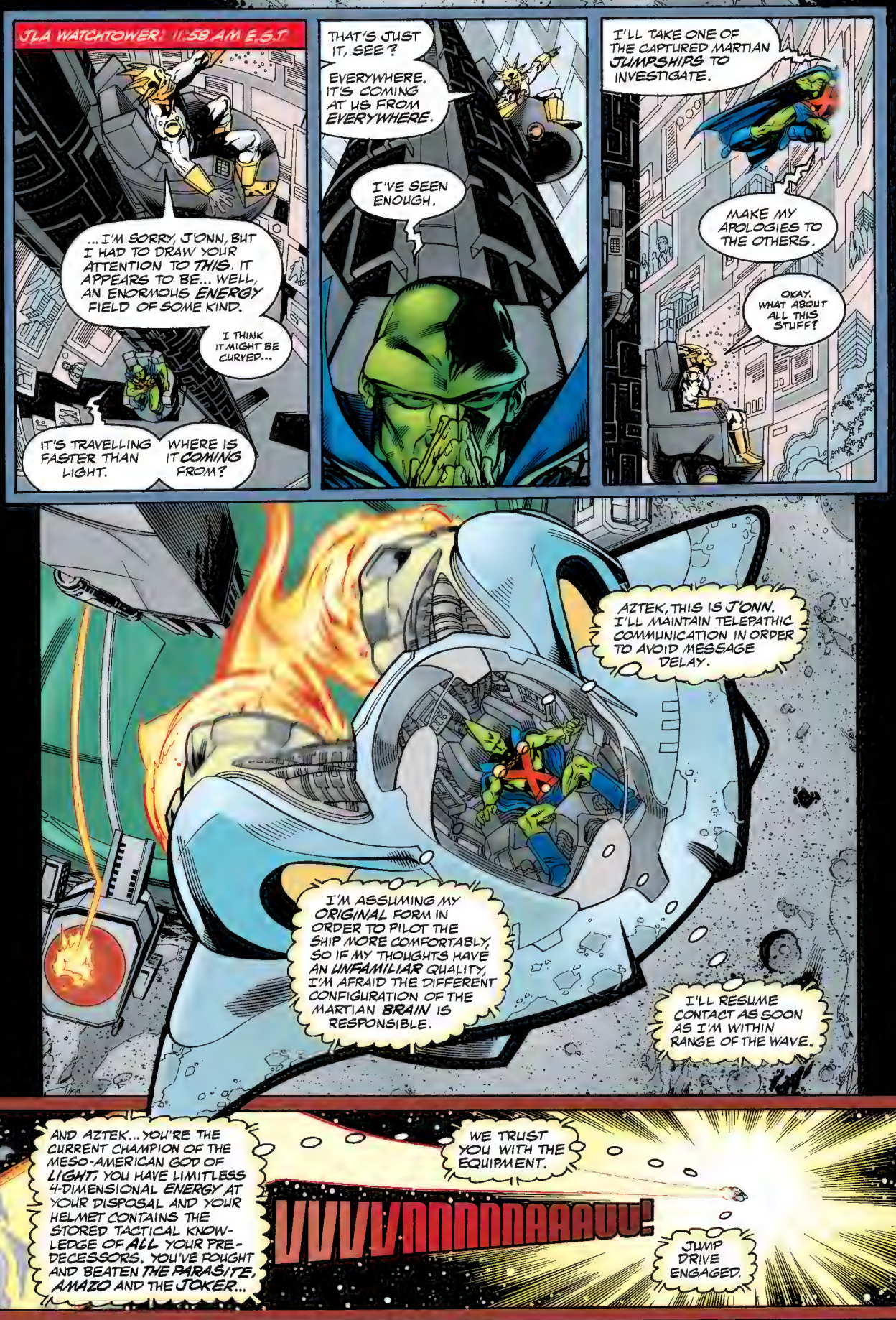
HH.
ULTRASOUND ECHO-LOCATION. ENGAGE.
COMPUTER ENHANCE VISUAL FIELD.
FULL 3-D IMAGING.
TARGET LASERS.
FIRE.
KROOOM!

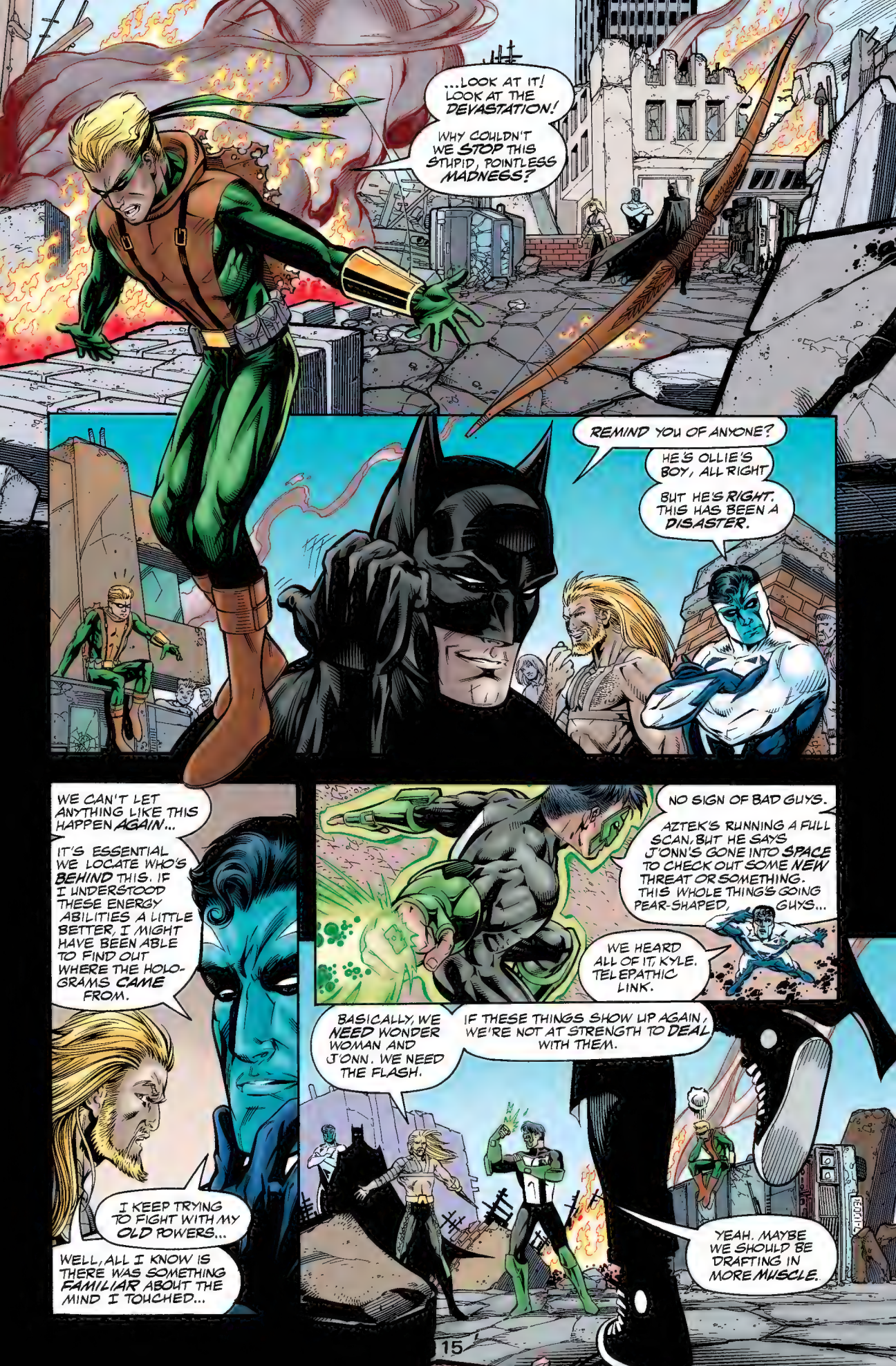

AAAOOOWWW
HE KNEW.
I FELT HIM IN MY HEAD. HE...RECOGNIZED ME.
UNNNH.
I DO BELIEVE THEY'VE REALIZED THAT THE JLA REVENGE SQUAD ARE HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS, GENTLEMEN. I EXPECT THEY'LL USE SHORT-WAVE LIGHT TO SCATTER THE SQUAD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE ALREADY HAVE MOST OF THE DATA WE NEED.
ZZZZIIIINNNN

DID YOU SEE THAT THING?
WHERE DID ALL THOSE LITTLE BATPLANES COME FROM?
IT WAS A HOLOGRAM, KYLE.
EACH FRAGMENT OF A HOLOGRAM CONTAINS ALL THE INFORMATION OF THE WHOLE BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY COUNTERPART?
NAH. MY GUY HAD SOME OF THE MOVES, BUT WORKING A POWER RING TAKES IMAGINATION.
PLASMA SPIKE FRITZED HIM OUT.
THERE.
STAND BACK, KYLE.
WHOEVER CREATED THESE THINGS OBVIOUSLY HASN'T TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTENT OF THESE NEW POWERS I'VE DEVELOPED.
HE'S COMING RIGHT AT YOU, SUPERMAN...
HARD LIGHT OR SOFT. IT'S STILL LIGHT.
AND LIGHT IS STILL ENERGY...
BOOM!
...AND I ABSORB ENERGY.

MALL ENTRANCE
SIZRAK!
EVERYBODY HEAD FOR THE...
AAAOOOW!
HELP HIM! LOOK!
... SOMEBODY HELP...
...COME ON! COME ON!...
JUST ONE ARROW...
...JUST ONE...
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, MAN!
IT'S BACK TO THE GREEN TEAM FOR THE BIG FINISH!
UH?
AND HURRY IT UP.

SUN TZU SAID "NEVER HURRY A VICTOR!"
AT LEAST I HOPE HE DID.
ARROWS?
NOOO
ZZIIINNNN
GOOD THINKING.
WHAT?
THANKS... I MEAN, UH... THANKS...

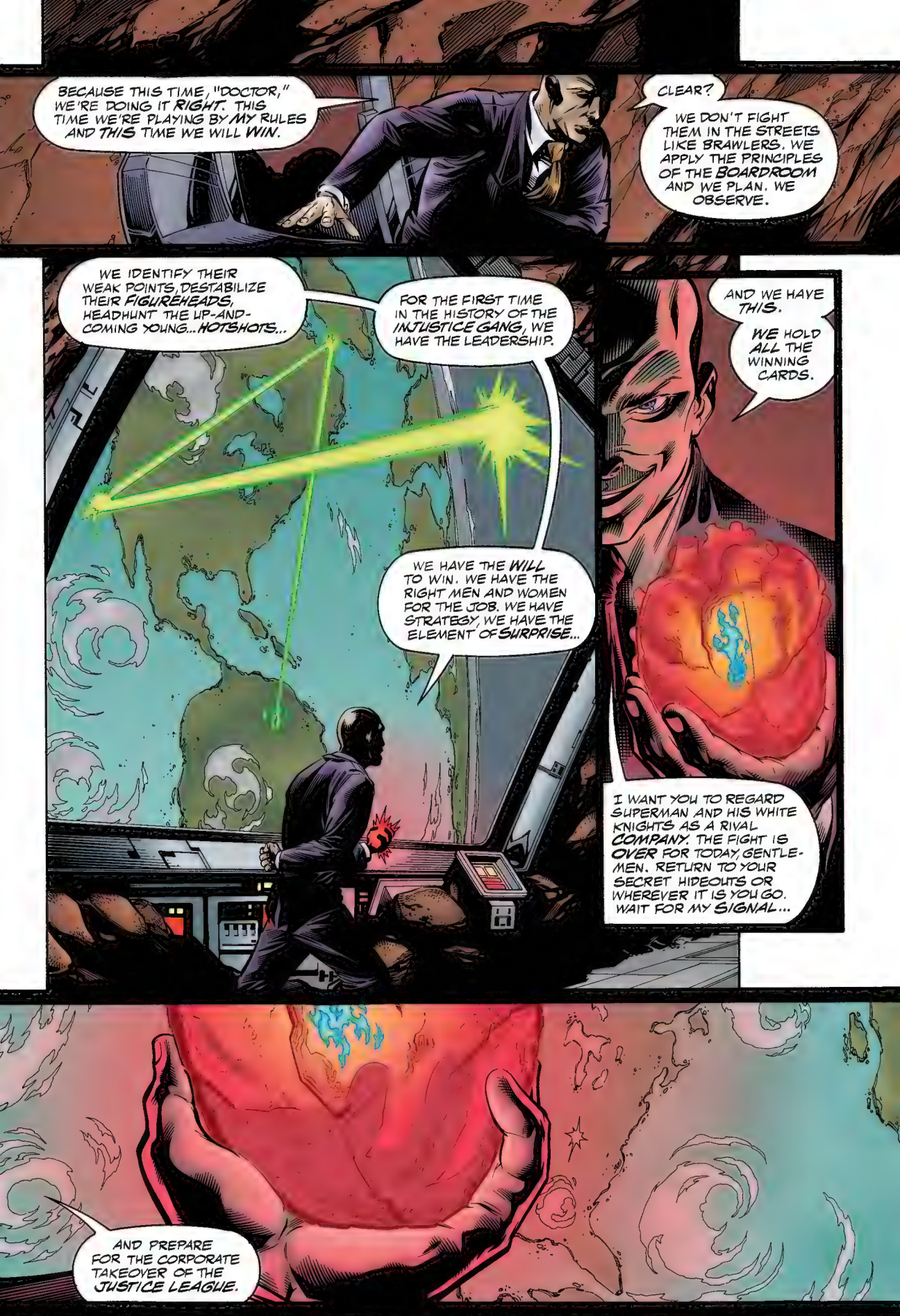

JLA WATCHTOWER: 11:58 A.M. E.S.T.
...I'M SORRY, J'ONN, BUT I HAD TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS. IT APPEARS TO BE... WELL, AN ENORMOUS ENERGY FIELD OF SOME KIND.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE CURVED...
IT'S TRAVELLING FASTER THAN LIGHT.
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
THAT'S JUST IT, SEE?
EVERYWHERE. IT'S COMING AT US FROM EVERYWHERE.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
I'LL TAKE ONE OF THE CAPTURED MARTIAN JUMPSHIPS TO INVESTIGATE.
MAKE MY APOLOGIES TO THE OTHERS.
OKAY, WHAT ABOUT ALL THIS STUFF?
AZTEK, THIS IS J'ONN. I'LL MAINTAIN TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION IN ORDER TO AVOID MESSAGE DELAY.
I'M ASSUMING MY ORIGINAL FORM IN ORDER TO PILOT THE SHIP MORE COMFORTABLY, SO IF MY THOUGHTS HAVE AN UNFAMILIAR QUALITY, I'M AFRAID THE DIFFERENT CONFIGURATION OF THE MARTIAN BRAIN IS RESPONSIBLE.
I'LL RESUME CONTACT AS SOON AS I'M WITHIN RANGE OF THE WAVE.
AND AZTEK... YOU'RE THE CURRENT CHAMPION OF THE MESO-AMERICAN GOD OF LIGHT. YOU HAVE LIMITLESS 4-DIMENSIONAL ENERGY AT YOUR DISPOSAL AND YOUR HELMET CONTAINS THE STORED TACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF ALL YOUR PREDECESSORS. YOU'VE FOUGHT AND BEATEN THE PARASITE, AMAZO AND THE JOKER...
WE TRUST YOU WITH THE EQUIPMENT.
VVVVNNNNNAAAUU!
JUMP DRIVE ENGAGED.

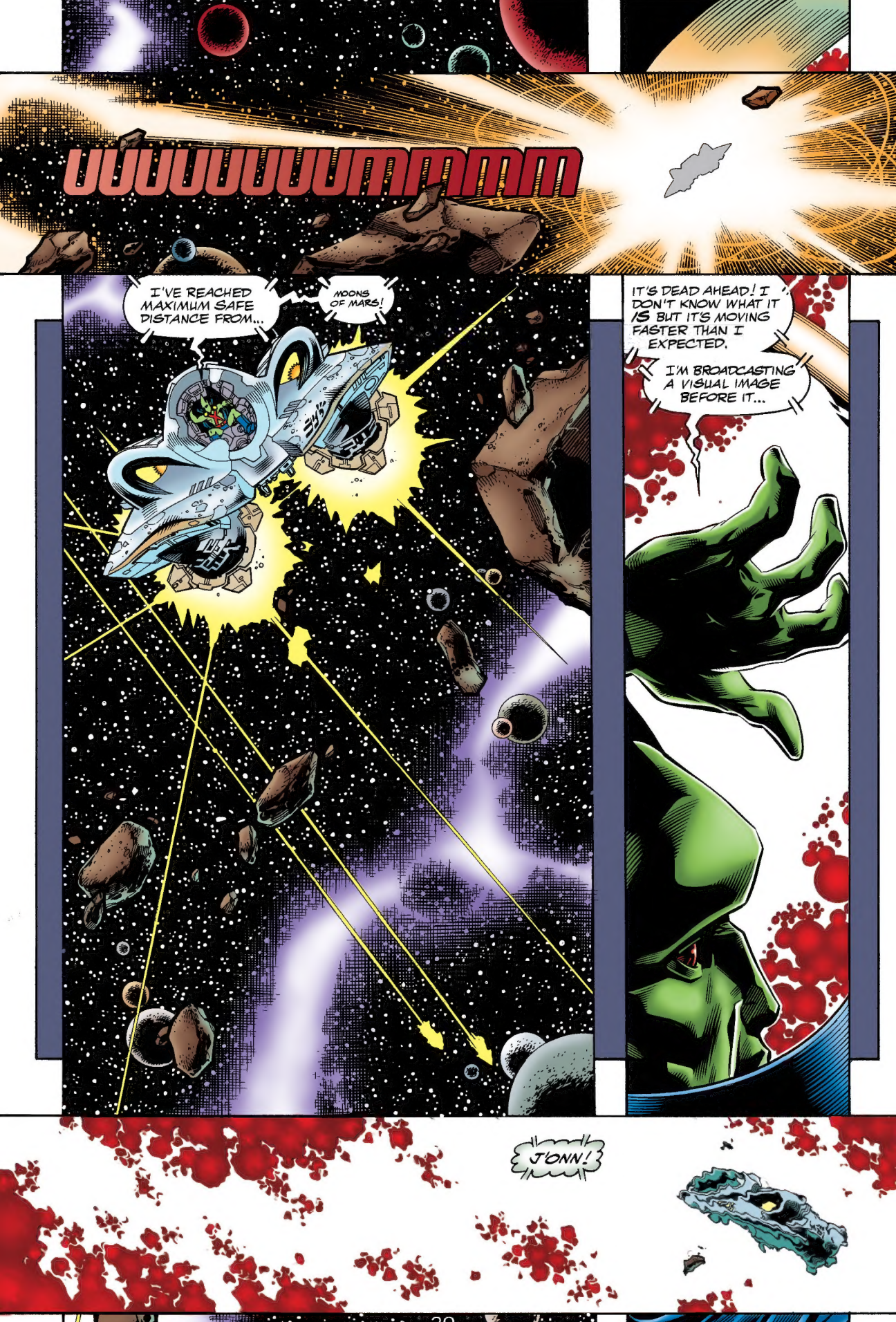

...LOOK AT IT! LOOK AT THE DEVASTATION!
WHY COULDN'T WE STOP THIS STUPID, POINTLESS MADNESS?
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE?
HE'S OLLIE'S BOY, ALL RIGHT.
BUT HE'S RIGHT. THIS HAS BEEN A DISASTER.
WE CAN'T LET ANYTHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN AGAIN...
IT'S ESSENTIAL WE LOCATE WHO'S BEHIND THIS. IF I UNDERSTOOD THESE ENERGY ABILITIES A LITTLE BETTER, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE HOLOGRAMS CAME FROM.
I KEEP TRYING TO FIGHT WITH MY OLD POWERS...
WELL, ALL I KNOW IS THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE MIND I TOUCHED...
NO SIGN OF BAD GUYS.
AZTEK'S RUNNING A FULL SCAN, BUT HE SAYS J'ONN'S GONE INTO SPACE TO CHECK OUT SOME NEW THREAT OR SOMETHING. THIS WHOLE THING'S GOING PEAR-SHAPED, GUYS...
WE HEARD ALL OF IT, KYLE. TELEPATHIC LINK.
BASICALLY, WE NEED WONDER WOMAN AND J'ONN. WE NEED THE FLASH.
IF THESE THINGS SHOW UP AGAIN, WE'RE NOT AT STRENGTH TO DEAL WITH THEM.
YEAH. MAYBE WE SHOULD BE DRAFTING IN MORE MUSCLE.

SOMEBODY HERE'S GOTTA HAVE CAPTAIN MARVEL'S MOBILE NUMBER...
HEY! YOU SUPER GUYS! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT IS THIS?
YOU GUYS GO POW! ZOOM! TO THE MOON OR SOMETHING AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST LIVE WITH THIS?
PEOPLE HERE GONNA BE TRAUMATIZED FOR LIFE...
AH, C'MON, MAN! WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN. WE'RE TRYING TO BE THE GOOD GUYS, YOU KNOW? WE'RE NOT, LIKE, GODS OR SOMETHING.
I'M JUST A GUY, LIKE YOU. I GOT THIS RING AND I'M TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
SURE, YEAH, OKAY. YOU'RE JUST A REGULAR GUY.
SO HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE ME YOUR RING? MAYBE I CAN DO A BETTER JOB.
SH'YEAH! LIKE I KNOW YOU FROM THE JOKER! I'M GONNA HAND OVER MY RING-- WHICH BY THE WAY ONLY WORKS FOR ME.
I MEAN, COME ON! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE LIFE HARD FOR ME, DUDE? I'M ONLY TRYING TO STOP PEOPLE FROM GETTING HURT.
YEAH? WELL THESE SUPER-CRAZY PEOPLE WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU...
EXCUSE ME, SIR. THIS MAN'S NEEDED ELSEWHERE...
JEEZ.
YOUR ATTENTION HERE, GREEN LANTERN. I THINK THE HOLOGRAMS WERE REMOTE DEVICES, MONITORING AND ANALYZING EVERY MOVE WE MADE AGAINST THEM.
I THINK THEY WERE DESIGNED AND MANIPULATED TO RECORD OUR STRENGTHS AND OUR WEAKNESSES.
NO PARKING
HOLOGRAMS DON'T JUST GENERATE SPONTANEOUSLY.
I NEED YOU TO CHECK FOR ORBITAL LASER BROADCAST FACILITIES.
SURE.

NO PROBLEM.
NOTHING HERE.
WEIRD KINDA SMELL, THOUGH. MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN THAI LAST NIGHT...
YOU'RE SURE HE CAN'T SEE US?
NOT WHILE OUR ALIEN "FRIEND" CONTINUES TO TELEPATHICALLY REROUTE ALL THE VISUAL INPUT FROM OUR SATELLITE INTO THAT AREA OF "GREEN LANTERN'S" HEROICALLY MINIATURE BRAIN WHICH HANDLES SCENT MESSAGES.
HE COULDN'T SEE US IF WE STOOD AN INCH FROM HIS NOSE AND WAVED A BANNER IN HIS FACE...

WITH THE WORDS "THE INJUSTICE GANG IS BACK" WRITTEN IN MILE-HIGH NEON LETTERS, LUTHOR?
PRECISELY.
AND THAT'S MR. LUTHOR TO YOU.
DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
THE REVENGE-SQUAD SPRITES ARE BACK IN THEIR HARD-LIGHT STORAGE TANKS... LUTHOR. DOWNLOADING ALL THE TACTICAL INFORMATION ON THE JLA INTO OUR COMPUTERS...
LOOK, WHY DON'T WE KILL GREEN LANTERN WHILE WE HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY? ONE LESS...


BECAUSE THIS TIME, "DOCTOR," WE'RE DOING IT RIGHT. THIS TIME WE'RE PLAYING BY MY RULES AND THIS TIME WE WILL WIN.
CLEAR?
WE DON'T FIGHT THEM IN THE STREETS LIKE BRAWLERS. WE APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BOARDROOM AND WE PLAN. WE OBSERVE.
WE IDENTIFY THEIR WEAK POINTS, DESTABILIZE THEIR FIGUREHEADS, HEADHUNT THE UP-AND-COMING YOUNG...HOTSHOTS...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE INJUSTICE GANG, WE HAVE THE LEADERSHIP.
WE HAVE THE WILL TO WIN. WE HAVE THE RIGHT MEN AND WOMEN FOR THE JOB. WE HAVE STRATEGY, WE HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE...
AND WE HAVE THIS.
WE HOLD ALL THE WINNING CARDS.
I WANT YOU TO REGARD SUPERMAN AND HIS WHITE KNIGHTS AS A RIVAL COMPANY. THE FIGHT IS OVER FOR TODAY, GENTLEMEN. RETURN TO YOUR SECRET HIDEOUTS OR WHEREVER IT IS YOU GO. WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL...
AND PREPARE FOR THE CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.


UUUUUUUUMMMM
I'VE REACHED MAXIMUM SAFE DISTANCE FROM...
MOONS OF MARS!
IT'S DEAD AHEAD! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS BUT IT'S MOVING FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
I'M BROADCASTING A VISUAL IMAGE BEFORE IT...
J'ONN!

...J'ONN.
ARE YOU THERE, J'ONN?
THIS IS SUPERMAN.
TALK TO US.
J'ONN, IS THAT YOU? THERE'S... STATIC. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, J'ONN?
...IS...YES... I CAN'T... I THINK...
...CAN'T OPEN FULLY... CAN'T LET YOU FEEL WHAT I'M FEELING... THIS...
WHAT HAPPENED, J'ONN. THE WAVE? WHERE IS THE WAVE?
...NO HOPE... NO SENSE OF MEANING... WE'RE ALL SO ALONE...
J'ONN!
TERRIBLE... SO TERRIBLE...
IT'S...IT'S... COMING...

...IT'S HEADING DIRECTLY TOWARDS EARTH.
TO BE CONTINUED

" [A] comic legend."
– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

"[Grant Morrison is] comics's high shaman."
– WASHINGTON POST

"[Grant Morrison] is probably my favorite writer. That guy has more ideas in his pinky than most people do in a lifetime."
– GERARD WAY
from MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

VOL. 1: NEW WORLD ORDER
VOL. 2: AMERICAN DREAMS
VOL. 3: ROCK OF AGES
VOL. 4: STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
VOL. 5: JUSTICE FOR ALL
VOL. 6: WORLD WAR III

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AMERICAN DREAMS

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